

Claims 34-54 and are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The Examiner states that the claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species:

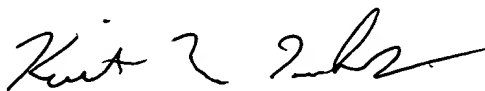
I. species 1, a method for removing a metal layer from a substrate (ex. claims 34-45)

II. species 2, a method for controlling an electrochemical deplating process (ex. claims 46-54).

Applicants elect species I (claims 34-45) with traverse. Applicants submit that claims 40 and 46 do not define separate species. Claim 40 includes the subject matter of the limitations of claim 46. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 40 and claim 46 should not be restricted. As claim 40 depends on claim 34 and is part of species I, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 34-45 and 46-54 should not be restricted.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)